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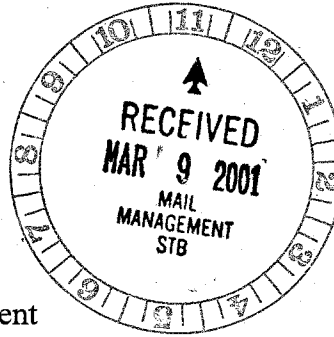
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March 9, 2001

Office of the Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



Re: STB Ex Parte No. 582 (Sub-No. 1) Oral Argument

Dear Mr. Williams:

Pursuant to the Board's February 22, 2001 Decision in Ex Parte No. 582 (Sub-No. 1), The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company ("BNSF") hereby notifies the Board that it wishes to participate in the oral argument to be held on Thursday, April 5, 2001.


Issues to Be Addressed:

1. The importance of expeditious review of transactions and the adoption of a procedural schedule that can provide for final Board action on a Class I merger application within one year.
2. There should not be a presumption that future Class I mergers would not generate significant benefits or that such benefits could be fully realized through means short of mergers, such as alliances.

Speaking Time Requested: BNSF requests 10 minutes to address its issues.

Speaker: BNSF will be represented by Richard E. Weicher, its Vice President and Senior Regulatory Counsel.

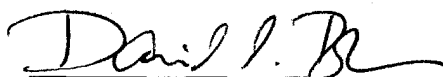
Sincerely,


Erika Z. Jones

cc: All Parties of Record

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that on this 9th day of March 2001 copies of Request of Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company to Appear in Oral Argument in Ex Parte 582 Proceeding are being served on all parties of record.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David I. Bloom", is written over a horizontal line.

David I. Bloom